

Stabler-Leadbeater Apothecary Shop  
(Leadbeater-Stabler Apothecary Shop)  
105-7 South Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, Virginia

H.A.B.S. VA.175

HABE

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*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
District of Virginia

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Prepared by Washington Office  
Interior Bldg. Washington, D.C.

LEADBEATER-STABLER APOTHECARY SHOP  
107 South Fairfax Street  
Alexandria, Virginia

Owner: Alexandria Landmark Society

Date of erection: c. 1795

Present condition: Good, partly restored

Description:

Brick laid in Flemish bond, three full stories high below a gable roof. The facade is three bays wide above the shop front, which extends almost the entire width of the building. The sash in both second and third floor windows are six-over-six lights, although the height of the upper openings is less than those below. In the rear windows the <sup>latter</sup> are twelve-over-twelve (8 by 10 glass) and the ~~former~~ eight-over-twelve. However, the detail of the front sash indicates that they are very old if not original, though the muntin profile is not exactly similar to that in the rear window. The brickwork of the facade is particularly well laid, with large size, uniform bricks with struck joints. The windows are spanned by deep flat arches with sharply splayed skew-backs. The cornice is of corbelled brickwork. The dormer on the roof is not original but may date from a period not long after that of the original building. It was recently retrimmed, the facing formerly having been slate.

The shop front is a restoration of 1936-38 and is based on extensive evidence. The extreme overall width of the woodwork was indicated by a painted line on the brickwork as well as by nailing blocks in the masonry. The wall below the windows had been cut away, but the line of the underside of the wood window sill was found and the brickwork restored to this level. The line of the pent-roof was determined by the mortises for the outlookers. The architectural trim of the pent-roof and the use of pilasters below are conjectural.

The existing curved glazed doors are original and were found in the attic together with other fragments from this and 105 South Fairfax Street, including the paneled shutters for the exterior doors and for the shop windows, and one paneled door jamb. This latter was reproduced for the other jamb, the transom jambs, and head. The size of the transom was determined by the various conditions, but its design is conjectural. The form of the shop windows was determined by the old paneled shutters, which gave both the plan and the height. The curious half-round projections were

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for the display of jars of colored water as the pharmacist's symbol. The tan color used for the paint matches the original on the old woodwork.

The interior of the shop is of unusual interest, as it shows the growth of the shop from the founding to the dissolution of the business. Along the walls are breast-high mahogany cases of drawers, each drawer concaved and the edges worked with a beaded lip. No original brasses seem to remain. Above the cases are open shelves, probably original, but against them have been placed Gothic Revival arches with clustered piers. Later than these are the counters which seem to date from about the time of the Civil War. In the loft above was located an original counter with paneled front.

The pharmacist's own room seems to have been located on the second floor, as, in the rear of the loft, the west and south walls are plastered and trimmed. The other partitions have been removed.

The building adjacent to the old shop was used for many years as a store and warehouse for the same business. It is of brick, laid in Flemish bond, three full stories high with a gable roof. It is also three bays wide above the shop front, which however is not original, this story having once had a center door with two sash windows corresponding to those above. All the openings have narrow Greek Revival lintels and six-over-six-light sash, though the same diminution in height occurs here as in the older building. There is a single dormer on the roof.

The present shop window replaces one similar to that formerly on the old shop of mid-Victorian design. The evidence of the brickwork made it clear that the original window openings were normal window size, and paneled shutters were found upstairs to confirm this evidence. The expense of rebuilding the brickwork did not permit this restoration; so a large sash was put into the frame of a window of c. 1840 which existed behind the Victorian trim. The doors of the latter period had been hung in the original door frame and the transom bar raised. On lowering the bar to its former location it was found that a pair of c. 1820 doors stored in the attic fitted the opening and, in the space above, an old leaded glass transom, also stored in the attic. The state of this front then is substantially as it probably stood c. 1840. The interior has simple shelving, perhaps partly from the period of the original building.

Author: Thomas Waterman

Approved: 5/10/41

ADDENDUM TO:  
STABLER-LEADBEATER APOTHECARY SHOP  
(Leadbeater-Stabler Apothecary Shop)  
(Pharmaceutical Museum)  
107 South Fairfax Street  
Alexandria  
Independent City  
Virginia

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## PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street NW  
Washington, DC 20240-0001